

VANDALISM

Two girls, 15, charged in Duxbury hate crime

By Jordana Hart
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Two 15-year-old Duxbury girls have been charged with shooting paintballs at the home of a Jewish family, throwing a rock through their glass door, and leaving a note condemning them for not decorating their house for Christmas.

The Duxbury High School sophomores have each been charged with malicious damage to property over \$250, possession of an air gun by a minor, as well as committing a hate crime, according to Duxbury police.

The family, which police declined to identify, was at home on Marshall Street in Duxbury about 8 p.m. on Dec. 17 when they heard the crash of breaking glass and the thud of the paintballs against their house. The paintballs were green and red.

"The incident was investigated as a hate crime because of the language in the note, and the fact that the residents of the home are Jewish," said Sergeant Lewis Chubb.

The girls, who were not identified because of their age, allegedly left a one-sentence note, handwritten in red and green on a torn piece of notebook paper: "This is what happens when you don't decorate for Christmas."

Chubb said the girls will be arraigned in Plymouth County Juvenile Court later this week or early next week. Another 15-year-old girl was at the scene, but she has not been charged.

Police said the girls have been suspended from school. An assistant superintendent for Duxbury public schools declined to comment.

The civil rights chairman for the Anti-Defamation League in Boston, which tracks hate crimes and conducts antidiscrimination workshops at schools, yesterday said he was surprised by both the age and gender of the suspects.

"It's remarkable that 15-year-olds are motivated to do this sort of thing," said David Bunis, a civil rights litigator in Boston. "What we are finding is that kids learn behaviors like this at home, on the Internet, on television, and from movies. It is reinforced in school by peers."

Statistics show that it is mostly boys in their late teens who commit these kinds of hate crimes. Three boys were recently charged in Andover for burning a swastika into the high school field on Nov. 23. Two boys were arrested in Foxborough Dec. 18 for breaking into their high school and drawing graffiti, including a swastika.

No arrests have been made in connection with the anti-Semitic and anti-black scenes painted on the Winchester High School student parking lot two weeks ago, or the anti-Semitic and anti-gay slurs left inside the boys' bathroom at Newton North High School Nov. 23 and Dec. 7.

Bunis said he hopes that schools will use ADL's program that teaches tolerance and diversity.